

into a system, those dollars will not spread broadly enough.

When these dollars do not spread, the individuals see it as a cut because the services are simply not there. We can call it whatever we want to call it, but when the services are not there, the choices are not there, and people are having to pay more out of their pockets. When offsprings of these senior citizens are having to pick up the tab, when spouses are having to give up their job security and their homes to pay bills, they see it as a cut. We can count the dollars, whatever we want to do, it is a cut for the people. They feel it. They know it when they feel it.

Mr. Speaker, we are doing this just the opposite than what America has promised. We are punishing the poor and the most vulnerable to help the rich. That is not the way it has been intended. You can say that we are giving a tax break to persons making \$75,000 a year, but when you are taking away from those who are making \$25,000 or less, that is punishment of the most vulnerable population. When we take away Head Start, when we take away education funds, we are doing just the opposite of what our society needs to cope with tomorrow. Any way you look at it, that is hurting all of us, because we hurt our future.

Every nation that is doing better economically has a history of investing in their human resources. That is their people. We are refusing to do that. We are in the shape of a Third World nation, but it is OK if you are rich. It is the poor, the disabled, the elderly, that are being affected, and our children, which is this Nation's future.

Anyone who thinks the rich children are safe while we let poor children wander around in the wilderness of poverty, hunger, and the lack of education is in a different world than reality. Every child's future is at stake, not just the wealthy. We can get up here and talk all we want to talk about saving the future for our children, taking away the price tag. Let me assure you, when we remove food, when we remove shelter, when we subject the poorest children to water that is not safe, food that is not safe, and continue to dump in the neighborhoods where air is not safe, do not think we are not going to pick up the tab. We are going to pick it up through hospital bills, we will pick it up through prisons, but we have the responsibility and we will pick it up somehow.

We simply cannot forget the poor in our Nation just to keep making the wealthy wealthier. It does not work. It does not work, no matter what gender, no matter what color, no matter what the origin of birth. It does not work for any of us.

It is time for all of us to come to the table, forget the rhetoric, forget we are going to do just a revolution for the sake of revolution. We have to think about human beings. These are human beings we are affecting. These are living, breathing people. I say to you, it is time, it is time for us to give attention to the most vulnerable.

PASSING A CONTINUING RESOLUTION WOULD LET PEOPLE HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. HEFNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to maybe digress here. I wish some of the speakers who have spoken earlier were here. I have been around here for quite some time, and some people have a tendency to kind of rewrite history here.

The people that continually come to this well, and the good gentleman from Florida who practiced medicine in Florida, he said he was so concerned about his parents, and I feel sure he is, and is glad he still has his parents with him. Some of us do not have that privilege. But their rhetoric does not match up with the record of the Republican Party.

I remember back early on when Ronald Reagan first came to office, the first budget David Stockman sent to this House called for the \$125 cut for the oldest, neediest senior citizens in this country, to cut out the \$125 for these senior citizens. I can also remember, and I look at the RECORD back when Medicare was established, and it got no support. In fact, the majority leader in the Senate said he fought, he fought very, very hard to try to see that Medicare would never become a reality. Social Security was not supported by the Republican Party. Certainly Medicaid was not supported by the Republican Party.

The folks say to me, they say, "We are going to give senior citizens a bigger choice. We are going to let you do, and you are going to get an insurance policy. We are going to give you some choice." One of the things that they crucified Hillary Clinton and President Clinton for was to try to get people to move into HMO's and these areas. I can just imagine if I go to Prudential or some carrier that carrier health insurance and I say, "I want to get some insurance," and they say, "How old are you?" I say, "I am 66 years old. I have had open heart surgery. I have heart disease. It will get progressively worse." "Well, I'm sorry about that, but we cannot handle you," and the anxiety that it gives to our senior citizens.

One of the gentlemen mentioned it is only like \$100 or \$150 a year. That does not sound like much to a Member of Congress here, but I have people who come into my district offices in North Carolina every day, senior citizens living on fixed incomes that have to make a determination whether they are going to pay their monthly bills or whether they are going to get a prescription filled. It is not just the Medicare and the Medicaid that is so wrong with the budget that the Republicans have passed. It goes to other areas. Unless they have taken it out recently, you have the spousal impoverishment

that is in the bill. If one of the couple has to go into the nursing home, the existing spouse no longer can protect their property. Their children can be liable for that homestead or what have you. It is just a cruel hoax, this entire bill. It is not just the Medicare and Medicaid portion of it. It is all across. There is a mean spirit through this entire budget.

The gentleman spoke down here and said the President sent up a bill which we voted on the other day which was a total hoax. There was not one day's hearing. They took some quotes out of some statements that had been made months and months ago and put together a bill with not one day's hearings. It did not even go to the Rules Committee, and they brought it here on this floor and try to pan it off. It was a charade, it was a phony bill, it was a phony vote to embarrass the President of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get to another point. My grandkids, if you will permit me to be personal, my grandkids are coming here this weekend. They are going to spend Christmas with me. I do not have to leave this town. The gentleman made the remark his kids are coming. He is probably going to fly his wife and kids up from Florida to be here for Christmas. We can stay here for Christmas. But there are thousands and thousands of American citizens out there that do not take part in this debate, they had no part in this, and they are going to be absolutely frustrated during the holidays. They are going to be concerned about it.

Let me just remind my colleagues on the other side, they talk about a revolution that took place in November. Let me just remind my colleagues that 60 percent of the American people said, "A pox on both of your parties. We did not vote for any of you." Your Contract With America said when you were going to balance the budget, you did not go far enough and say we are going to balance the budget, but we are going to cut Medicare, Medicaid, we are going to do away with clean water, all these things. Had you added that into the contract, the numbers would have gone down drastically.

Why do we not do a continuing resolution, let people have a merry Christmas and a happy new year, and same to you, Tiny Tim.

AMERICANS WANT AN HONEST BALANCED BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. UPTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a couple of things during this span, as we wait for the rule to come down from the Committee on

Rules. On this side we want a balanced budget. I believe a lot of Members on that side want a balanced budget, too. They want it honestly scored, and that means by the Congressional Budget Office. We are tired of smoke and mirrors and phony numbers and the CR that we had last time. A lot of us were optimistic that something was going to happen, and it did not. That is why we are in the situation that we are in today.

Mr. Speaker, I reminded a colleague of mine earlier this afternoon that I was one of those who voted against the Bush budget back in 1990. I remember being down in the White House and meeting with a number of his advisers, and I said then that his assumptions and statistics that he was showing us in 1990 were wrong, because he told us that if that budget passed in 1990, and it did, despite my opposition, that we would have a surplus in 1995 of \$65 billion. The OMB was off \$225 billion.

We are tired of that. We are tired of trying to hoodwink the American public in terms of making tough decisions, and when the pie is finally taken out of the oven, it is not done. We want it done. The end product every one of us on this side wants and a good number on your side, and I hope including yourself: that pie done in a balanced fashion by the year 2002.

One of the things we are trying to do now is to get the sides together, put them in a room, lock the door, call out for Domino's Pizza on whatever you are going to do, and not let them out until we get a deal.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UPTON. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, just to make two points on the scoring, I do not think the American people are sitting out there having dinner and saying they are talking about a score by OMB rather than CBO. But CBO was off \$135 billion. I will agree with you, get some people together that want to balance this budget. I am for balancing this budget. But we are being told they are not going to pass a budget in this House unless it is Democrats that go your way. You say, "You do it our way, or it will be no way," and that is no way to negotiate.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. UPTON. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman about the point, I think there are probably a lot of people out there eating dinner and probably some of them watching C-Span, and I doubt if very few of them understand all the scoring. But I will tell you one thing the American people understand. I think it is reflected in votes that have been made on this floor throughout the year. The fact that we passed a balanced budget amendment with 300 votes, it included a lot of Democrats, and maybe some of the people who are sitting here this evening. We passed a balanced budget resolution with the

vast majority of Democrats voting with us.

The reason is that our people who are elected to these jobs, whether they be Republicans or Democrats, know that the American people want a balanced budget. The reason is because of the fact they balance their budget year in and year out, they know how to do it, they look at their ledgers, they see how much money is coming in, and they say, "Why can't you do this in Washington? What is the problem? Why do we have a \$5 trillion debt?" Because we have overspent.

So the average person watching television out there, eating dinner, for those people that are, they understand how this works.

Mr. HEFNER. If the gentleman will yield further, Mr. Speaker, I am not disagreeing with him. But it boils down to this: we can have negotiations, but it cannot be "My way or no way."

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That is no way to negotiate.

Mr. UPTON. Reclaiming my time, I think that we can reach a bipartisan accord. The vote that we had here 2 nights ago, it passed big time: 7 years, CBO numbers, most of us, again. I think only 40 Members voted against it. I think that there is room for a bipartisan agreement, and there are a number of us that want to do that.

Mr. HEFNER. Mr. Speaker, I do not mean to sound sarcastic, but if we could put together a budget, get to a budget in 7 years scored by CBO, is the gentleman at liberty to deliver some Republican votes if it met with your approval?

Mr. UPTON. I believe so, and I think that is what we all ought to be working here tonight to try and do, and tomorrow night and the next night, until it is done.

Mr. HEFNER. Because we understand and have been told that the only budget we are going to get will be a Republican budget with enough votes over here to override a veto. If we cannot get some support to where we can come as a bipartisan group, we have very serious reservations about it. But I am asking if you and I could sit down as honest brokers.

LET THE LEADERS LEAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WHITE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Mrs. KENNELLY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to come down here on the floor and say that all week I have stayed away from the floor. I felt that there was really nothing that could be said at this point in time, that the American people mostly, those that are fortunate enough to be with their families and about to enjoy a holiday with shopping and getting ready for Christmas and trying to have a family occasion where there could be happiness and good

cheer, that they probably thought that we in Washington, Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, that we could not get our job done.

They pay us well, they send us to Washington to represent them, and they would like us to carry out our duties. Yet we hear this more or less "blame game." I do not think that is going on in the country. I think they are saying, all of us are not doing our job.

I reached a point of frustration this afternoon, listening to the conversation on the floor, because things get mixed, what is happening here. We have appropriation bills that are passed on this floor and on the floor of the Senate that go to the President and are signed, and those bills fund, through taxpayers' money, the various agencies of the U.S. Government. Six of these bills have not been finished.

That has happened in other years, and then we have what is called a continuing resolution. It comes to both floors and is passed, and then the problems within the different bills are hammered out and worked out, and then eventually we have an appropriations bill. Of course, that is not what happened 2 weeks ago and that is not what is happening now.

The continuing resolution does not pass and, therefore, those agencies stop, and the result is that 200,000 people cannot go to work.

I do not understand it. This is not the budget. The budget is another whole process. The budget, there are a lot of differences, differences about values, differences about priorities, differences about the budget of the United States of America and about the size of the Federal Government. That is all in the budget.

But the continuing resolution is different, and I do not see why we hold the continuing resolution hostage to the budget.

We as Members of Congress are fortunate. We have an office down here and at home. In that office, I think each and every one of us works very hard on casework, and yet we are saying to 200,000 Federal workers, we are not letting you go to work. I just think that goes against everything I have ever worked for.

We are saying to people who want to go to work at the Smithsonian and other museums and our art galleries, at our monuments that we are so proud of, at our parks that are so beautiful, no, you cannot go. Yet, as Members of Congress, we work very hard so that people who want to come to Washington can get their tickets, can go to the Washington Monument and the Mint, yet we have closed all of these. It is beyond me.

So I would just like to say tonight, can we not pass a continuing resolution, open up the Government to the people who pay for it, the citizens of the United States of America, and not hold it hostage to the budget of the